



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 12, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Rep. Debra Kolste – (608) 266-7503

KOLSTE BILL TO COMBAT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PASSES ASSEMBLY

(MADISON) – Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville) today thanked her Assembly colleagues who passed Assembly Bill 365, legislation she introduced with Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) to prevent opiate abuse in Wisconsin. AB 365 was included as part of Nygren’s second round of “Heroin Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE)” legislation.

The bill passed the Assembly on a unanimous vote.

The bill would require law enforcement officers who encounter a violation of law concerning prescription scheduled drugs to upload that information into the state’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and have the PDMP notify the physician.

“Passage of this bill today is a critical step in addressing the growing concerns of prescription drug abuse in Wisconsin,” Kolste said. “The bill will allow a physician to know if the patient is appropriately taking medication, if the patient experiences an unexpected reaction from taking the scheduled drug, if the patient may be a bad actor in selling the drugs, or if the physician needs to monitor his or her own prescribing habits.”

Kolste said she has been working with Nygren on the legislation since January of 2015. She and Nygren have reached out to stakeholders in law enforcement and in the medical community to make sure the bill will be effective in the fight against the scourge of opiate abuse, Kolste said.

Kolste said she first encountered a need for this legislation while attending a Rock County Sheriff’s Department heroin task force meeting. The task force raised concerns of the rising use of prescription narcotics as a part of the growing heroin epidemic.

“I have been proud to work with Rep. Nygren to pass strong bipartisan legislation that will equip Wisconsin physicians, pharmacists, and law enforcement officers with greater knowledge about abusive use behavior and some potentially questionable prescribing habits,” Kolste said.

The bill will now go to the Senate for a floor vote.

Other HOPE bills that passed the Assembly on Tuesday package include:

- Legislation requiring more timely updates to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Now, pharmacists and others have seven days to enter information on certain drugs, including opiates, Nygren said. The package would require updates within 24 hours of a prescription being issued.
- Legislation creating a registry for pain clinics through the Department of Health Services (DHS) to get data on their practices.
- Legislation creating an annual recording requirement through DHS for methadone clinics.

-END-